

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising:
 - a first wire disposed on a distal side of said guide wire, said first wire being made from a reshapable and non-superelastic metal material, said first wire possessing a proximal tip;
 - said first wire being configured to be plastically deformed to a desired shape and maintained in the desired shape upon being bent in the desired shape by a user, the first wire not being a coil; and
 - a second wire disposed on a proximal side from said first wire, said second wire being made from a pseudo-elastic alloy, said second wire possessing a distal tip;
 - wherein the proximal tip of said first wire and the distal tip of said second wire are coaxial; and
 - wherein the first wire includes a proximal end face and the second wire includes a distal end face, the proximal end face of the first wire and the distal end face of the second wire abutting one another and being welded to each other at one another to form a welded portion.
2. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, further comprising:

a third wire disposed on the proximal side from said second wire, said third wire being made from a material having an elastic modulus larger than an elastic modulus of a material forming said second wire;

wherein said second wire and said third wire are joined to each other by welding.

3. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein each of outer diameters of said first wire and said second wire is gradually reduced in a direction toward the distal end in a region extending from a position on the proximal side from a welded portion between said first wire and said second wire to a position on the distal side from said welded portion across said welded portion.

4. (Withdrawn) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said first wire has a small cross-sectional area portion having a cross-sectional area smaller than a cross-sectional area of a distal end portion of said second wire in the vicinity of a welded portion between said first wire and said second wire.

5. (Withdrawn) A guide wire according to claim 1, further comprising:
an overlapping portion in which a proximal end portion of said first wire and a distal end portion of said second wire are overlapped to each other in the axial direction of said first and second wires;
wherein said first wire and said second wire are welded to each other in said overlapping portion.

6. (Withdrawn) A guide wire according to claim 1, further comprising:
a rigidity imparting member for increasing a flexural rigidity of the vicinity of a distal end portion of said second wire in the vicinity of the proximal side of a welded portion between said first wire and said second wire covering the outer periphery of said second wire.

7-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 1, further comprising:

a third wire disposed on the proximal side from said second wire, said third wire being made from a material having an elastic modulus larger than an elastic modulus of a material forming said second wire.

13. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said first wire possesses a length in a range of 10 to 1,000 mm.

14. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 13, wherein said length of the first wire is a range of 10 to 50 mm.

15. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 13, wherein said length of the first wire is in a range of 100 to 300 mm.

16. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said welding is butt resistance welding.

17. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said welding is spot welding.

18. (Currently Amended) The guide wire according to claim 1, wherein ~~each of a connection~~ the proximal end face of the first wire ~~to the second wire and a connection~~ the distal end face of the second wire ~~to the first wire is~~ are nearly perpendicular to the axial direction of both the first and second wires.

19. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 1, further comprising:

a spiral coil covering at least a distal end portion of the first wire.

20. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 19, wherein the welded portion between said first wire and said second wire is located on the proximal side of a proximal end of the coil.

21. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 19, wherein the welded portion between the first wire and the second wire is located on a distal side of a proximal end of the coil.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 2, said third wire is made from a stainless steel or a cobalt alloy.

24. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising:

a first wire disposed on a distal side of said guide wire, said first wire being made from a reshapable and non-superelastic metal material, said first wire possessing a proximal tip;

said first wire being configured to be plastically deformed to a desired shape and maintained in the desired shape upon being bent in the desired shape by a user, the first wire not being a coil;

a spiral coil covering at least a distal end portion of said first wire;

a second wire disposed on a proximal side from said first wire, said second wire being made from a pseudo-elastic alloy, said second wire possessing a distal tip;

wherein the proximal tip of said first wire and the distal tip of said second wire are welded to each other at a welded portion;

the welded portion comprising a fused layer formed with said first wire and said second wire; and

the welded portion between said first wire and said second wire being located on a distal side of a proximal end of said spiral coil;

the proximal tip of said first wire and the distal tip of said second wire are coaxial; and

the first wire includes a proximal end face and the second wire includes a distal end face, the proximal end face of the first wire and the distal end face of the second wire abutting one another and being welded to one another to form the welded portion.

25-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The guide wire according to Claim ~~[[25]]~~24, further comprising a fixing material fixed to a distal end of the spiral coil and a distal end of the first wire.

28. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising:

a first wire disposed on a distal side of said guide wire, said first wire being made from a reshapable metal material, said first wire possessing a proximal tip;

said first wire being configured to be plastically deformed to a desired shape and maintained in the desired shape upon being bent in the desired shape by a user, the first wire not being a coil;

a second wire disposed on a proximal side from said first wire, said second wire being made from a pseudo-elastic alloy, said second wire possessing a distal tip;

wherein the proximal tip of said first wire and the distal tip of said second wire are welded to each other at a welded portion;

said first wire being made from a material having an elastic modulus larger than an elastic modulus of the material forming said second wire;

the proximal tip of said first wire and the distal tip of said second wire are coaxial;

the first wire includes a proximal end face and the second wire includes a distal end face, the proximal end face of the first wire and the distal end face of the second wire abutting one another and being welded to one another to form the welded portion;

a third wire disposed on the proximal side from said second wire, said third wire being made from a material having an elastic modulus larger than the elastic modulus of the material forming said second wire; and

wherein said second wire and said third wire are joined to each other.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 24, wherein the spiral coil covers the welded portion and is spaced outwardly away from the welded portion.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 24, wherein at least a portion of the spiral coil is located distally beyond a distal end of the welded portion.

33. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 24, wherein the spiral coil possesses an axial extent greater than an axial extent of the welded portion.

34. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 24, wherein the spiral coil possesses a distal end portion, a proximal end portion and an intermediate portion, and further comprising a first fixing material that fixes the intermediate portion of the spiral coil to the first wire.

35. (Previously Presented) The guide wire according to claim 34, and further comprising a second fixing material that fixes the distal end portion of the spiral coil to the first wire.